



Arizona Department of Education
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter Holders, Principals, and Testing Coordinators
FROM: Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction
DATE: July 8, 2005
SUBJECT: IMPORTANT. Updates to AYP formula for 2005
(REF: RE05009-E)

This memo is to inform you of changes to the formula used to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for schools under the No Child Left Behind Act. The following modifications will be made to the AYP formula for the 2005 evaluations. For items 1-4 below, these are proposals that I made to the federal government to reduce the number of schools or districts not making AYP. We are gratified that these were granted, and the result will be fewer schools in Arizona in improvement under the federal system:

1. The minimum group size will be raised from 30 to 40.
2. The achievement goal for the attendance rate will be lowered from 94 percent to 90 percent.
3. Former English language learners that are now English proficient will be included in the ELL subgroup for evaluation purposes for two additional years.
4. A. School: Previously, failure to meet the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) two years in a row resulted in the school being in improvement, even if one year was math and the next year was reading. Now, the school must fail to make the AMO two years in a row in the same subject (which could include either the failure to have a sufficient percent proficient, or a sufficient percent tested).
B. District and Charters Having Both Elementary/Middle and High School Levels: The district or charter can go into improvement only if for two years there is a failure to meet the AMO in BOTH elementary/middle and high school levels. Previously, the district or charter could go into improvement if there was a failure to meet the AMO in either elementary/middle or high school.
5. The evaluation method used for small schools will be that approved by the State Board of Education at the June 27 meeting. Please see the ADE web site at http://www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/memos/AYPchanges_RE05008-E_070505.pdf for a description of the approved method.
6. The Arizona Department of Education will implement the additional flexibility for special education students outlined by the U.S. Department of Education in May 2005. This applies to any entity that fails to make AYP because of a special education group. For any such entity, add a percentage which we will calculate as soon as we have updated figures as to the number of special education students in the state. We will let you know what this percentage number is as soon as it is calculated. If the resulting number takes the entity over the AMO, then that entity will make AYP.

Please be sure to share this information with district and school staff as necessary.

If you have any questions regarding this information, contact Research and Evaluation at 602-542-5151 or email achieve@ade.az.gov.